GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:192
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2007
UN REPORT ON URBANISATION IN INDIA
Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao;Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations has given any report recently regarding urbanisation in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.192 FOR 24.08.2007 REGARDING UN REPORT ON URBANIZATION IN INDIA.

(a)&(b): As per the information available, United Nations has not come out with any such report regarding urbanization in India. However, in the recently published report entitled `State of World Population 2007` of United Nations Population Fund, there is a mention about India`s population growth, employment opportunity in formal sector and urban poverty in urban areas. Relevant comments on the urbanization in India are summarized in Annexure `A`.

(c): Though Urban Development is a State subject, the Government of India has launched the largest initiative in December 03, 2005 called Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore as additional Central Assistance. The aim of this Mission is to give focused attention to integrated development of infrastructure services in 63 select cities through sub- component viz. Urban Infrastructure and Governance. All other small and medium towns will be covered under another sub-component namely Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). Similarly two more components i.e. Basic Services for Urban Poor for select 63 cities and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme for all other cities under JNNURM are administered by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to ensure basic services to urban poor namely Housing, water supply, sewerage, drainage, street lighting, etc.

Since inception of the Mission till 31st March, 2007 all the 63 cities have prepared City Development Plan - a Vision Document as to how the cities would like to see themselves developing over a period of time. 49 cities have signed Memorandum of Agreement with Ministry of Urban Development to undertake mandatory as well as optional reforms over the mission period of 7 years. 205 projects valued at Rs. 16,965.81 crore have been approved and Rs. 1567.38 crore have been released to 42 cities in 20 States. Under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns 408 projects costing Rs. 6,181.62 crore for 324 towns have been approved. Additional central assistance of Rs. 4978.19 crore has been committed against which Rs. 1,271.56 crore have been released.

Similarly, under Basic Services to the Urban Poor 160 projects for 35 cities in 15 States valued at Rs. 9,495.37 crore have been approved and first installment of Rs. 970.91 crore has been released against central share of Rs. 4,785.74 crore. Under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) 196 projects from 189 towns in 15 States have been provided with additional Central Assistance of Rs. 492.61 crore against Central share of Rs. 1399.75 crore. The Mission seeks to achieve the following outcomes at the end of mission period viz. modern and transparent budgeting and financial management systems adopted for all urban services and government functions, transparency and accountability in the functioning of urban local bodies, improved service delivery, financially self-sustaining urban local bodies with improved credit-worthiness and provision of services to citizens at their door steps through e-Governance applications. It is expected that the Mission will bring about overall improvement in the infrastructural facilities and Governance which will ensure access to basic services to all its citizens including urban poor.

ANNEXURE-A

RELEVANT COMMENTS ON THE URBANISATION IN INDIA

India`s urban areas still hold less than 30 per cent of the total population. This is expected to rise to 40.7 per cent by 2030. This

relatively low level is partly attributable to a stringent definition of `urban` in India (for instance, it excludes peri-urban areas). Even with such a definition, urbanites are expected to number some 590 million in 2030.

Natural increase is the major factor in India`s urban growth. Employment opportunities in the formal sector are not expanding and much of the urban labour force works in the informal sector, but this does not prevent migrants from coming in search of the intangible advantages, opportunities and amenities of larger cities. Poverty in small towns has always been higher than in the million-plus cities and medium-size towns; also, between 1987-88 and 1993-1994, urban poverty declined more sharply in the million-plus cities than in medium cities and small towns.